

**To:** Rueda, Helen[Rueda.Helen@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Croxton, Dave[Croxton.David@epa.gov]; Owens, Kim[Owens.Kim@epa.gov]  
**From:** Opalski, Dan  
**Sent:** Tue 4/1/2014 4:36:52 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Pend Oreille TMDL - Facilitator

Actually, Helen, what I was meaning to indicate is that while I am willing to go to a certain length to honor Ecology's request, neither Dean nor I are particularly convinced that a facilitator will be helpful for the kind of conversation we need to have. So I really was meaning that a "lite" approach could be fine, or if we can't find anyone whose workable internatllly, I'd be inclined to go back to Ecology with a commitment that I'll actively facilitate, given that we are in several respects in the middle already. I think either Judy or Laurie could be fine. I understand that Ecology could have some concern with Laurie, so I wouldn't push that approach if they raised an objection.

**From:** Rueda, Helen  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 3:07 PM  
**To:** Opalski, Dan  
**Cc:** Croxton, Dave; Owens, Kim  
**Subject:** RE: Pend Oreille TMDL - Facilitator

Hi Dan

I agree that facilitation "lite" would be a mistake. Ecology did express a very strong desire for a facilitator, though they did not state it as a requirement. I would like to look into the possibilities for a facilitator, given Ecology's strong interest.

Among the facilitators available in region, Deb Robinson has the most experience and would be my first choice. However, facilitation is no longer part of her job description, so it may be difficult to get her. Other possibilities that I am familiar with would be Judy Smith or Laurie Mann. The Tribe may have an issue with Laurie because she was on Ecology's Dispute Resolution Panel for this TMDL, so perhaps we should check with them prior to selecting her. Please let me know if there are others you would recommend or if you have preferences among the people I named.

There is some funding for Conflict Resolution available through HQ that we have been pursuing. My understanding is that this funding would be to hire an outside facilitator. Do you want us to stop looking into this option or just make sure that the funding would be sufficient and flexible